Setting up of Restructuring Commission

4479. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Standing Conference on Public Enterprises has asked Government to appoint a Restructuring Commission; and

(b) if so, what are Government's comments thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE), have suggested that a Public Sector Restructuring Authority (PSRA) may be established. The suggestion has been noticed.

Losses of Prasar Bharati Nigam

†4480. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati Nigam is running into lossess these days;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is being done by Government to check this loss; and

(d) by when Government would bring forward the Prasar Bharati Bill ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati is a Public Service Broadcaster and does not operate on commercial basis to make profit. Prasar Bharati, being a Public Service Broadcaster, devotes considerable time in its broadcast/telecast to social issues and news. Most of such programmes do not attract advertisements of sponsorship. However, Prasar Bharati tries to maximise its income by seeking sponsorship for more programmes and by more efficient utilization of advertising time available to it. During the year 1999-2000, it earned a record revenue of approximately Rs. 688. crores.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) Prasar Bharati Act is already in force.

Failure of DD-Kashmir Channel

4481. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the DD-Kashmir channel launched on January, 26 with the objective of countering Pakistani media propaganda from across the border has failed to achieve its purpose;

(b) whether the channel, which is non-propagandist and aims at integrating the people of the State with the rest of the country, cannot be witnessed by a majority of people residing within a short radius and Srinagar Doordarshan employees had to work with risk to their lives; and

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what stern measures are being taken in this regard within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir. The DD-Kashmir Channel has been launched to provide information, education and entertainment to the people of Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the transmission of the Kashmir Channel is currently available on satellite as well as a low power transmitter. In order to boost the distribution of the signal, a high power transmitter has been installed in the valley. The same will be made operational soon.

Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested to make necessary arrangements for the security and safety of the DD/AIR personnel.

Revenue Earnings from Uplinking Right to Satellite Channels

4482. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the annual earnings of revenues from granting uplinking rights to Satellite television channels for 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) what steps are being taken to prevent the cultural invasion through uplinking of channels by cable operators and others in violation of the